

OUR FOREIGN MISSION WORK

J. C. CASSEL

Since my last visit to Montreal, Canada, I have corresponded with the several members of the General Missionary Board as to the wisdom of opening a work in the French city; and if we commenced there, whether it was to be regarded a home or foreign mission. I received four replies all which were favorable to the opening of the work and all agreed that it should be held as a foreign work.

The only available money is about two hundred dollars of foreign mission money held by the General Board. Not wishing to delay the work until after National Conference I have drawn on the above fund for one hundred dollars and had it forwarded to Brother Maldeis, who will rent a room, have it furnished and open the work, possibly on the 15 of June. If this action will be approved by our Foreign Missionary Society's meeting at National Conference, this will figure as our first foreign mission work recognized and supported by the Brethren Church. The expense of the work will probably not be over two hundred dollars the first year, unless we send an evangelist up there for a season, which I think ought to be done.

A work more distinctly foreign is that commenced by brother Ole Swadburg in north-western Canada which merits the support of the Foreign Missionary Society and it will no doubt be granted at the next meeting of the Society at Winona. I have so far received \$5 from N. C. Neilson, \$2 from Elder J. L. Boman and \$2 from Sister Frantz for Bro. Swadburg's work and I want to say in this public way that I feel sure that Bro. Swadburg will get the necessary means with which to secure the needed literature in the Norwegian language for his mission.

During my recent stay in Meyersdale, Pa. Elder John A. Miller called on me and assured me that he would forward his draft to me on or about July 1 next for \$1,000 to be used as our Foreign Society may deem wise, with another \$1,000 to follow later.

Recently we entertained a native Persian missionary at our home in Philadelphia who was educated in this country in a Presbyterian school, and had gone back to Persia, but returned on some mission of importance connected with the work and while here became convinced that infant baptism was not taught in the Bible, consequently he renounced his former church relations and was received into the Baptist church by single immersion. Since he has come in contact with us and observed our practices and studied our position he has become profoundly impressed with our attitude on the teaching of the gospel, so that now he is between two horns of a dilemma. Either he must go back to Persia and teach that which he knows is not the whole truth, or cast his lot with us and take the chance of being sustained by us as a missionary in his native land.

The missionary referred to in these notes is not Abilla Shuman, the brother that has been brought to our notice before now, but he knows Brother Shuman and is from the same city in Persia.

The conditions in Persia are rather favorable to missionary work. At present only the Presbyterians have a mission there, none of the other American Boards have taken up work there. They have been established some seventy years, and have at present about three thousand converts.

Persia has about ten millions of population, and an area about one-sixth that of the United States. There are about two hundred thousand Nestorians who are nominally Christians but who know nothing of evangelical religion, hence need the gospel of life preached to them. There are probably twenty-five thousand Jews and an equal number of fire worshippers in Persia, the rest are Mohammedans, but the latter of several types. There is a numerous class of them called Babists, these believe in an invisible prophet, and are seeking a spiritual life, failing to find it some of them become atheistic; they are more susceptible to the gospel than real hard shell Mohammedans. They are a secret body, hated by the priests.

The government is favorable to Christianity, not however because of its religion but because of the progress it brings with it. This is not true of the priests as they oppose every form of progress, consequently they are the only foes to Christianity in Persia; their influence is great, and their power absolute within certain lines, hence much of the missionary work with Mohammedans must be carried on secretly.

Because of the attitude of the priests Persia lacks in every phase of human progress. It has no literature, no schools for the common people, none for girls or women, whatever, no railroads, no telegraph, no telephones, no gas, or electric lights, in fact the cities are not lighted at all; it is simply as primitive as man came from the hands of God, it needs help.

Brother Shuman is very anxious that we open the way for the education of his son in our school and church.

I simply note these things to forestall the fact that there will be a great deal of business for our Foreign Missionary Society at our next conference, and that we must have a whole day's session before National Conference opens. No doubt there will be an official call issued to that effect soon.

Very few have as yet paid up their membership fee for the present year. It is to be hoped that the friends of foreign missions will now stand closely to the work, when there is something to do and be on hand on the day of the called meeting to take part in the necessary deliberations to dispose of the business that will come before us.

Endurance is nobler than strength, and patience than beauty.—Ruskin.

Among the Churches

Communion Notices

Communion services will be held in the Blanco church, Pa., on the evening of July 5, 1902. First service on the evening of July 4. A general invitation is extended to all of like precious faith.

J. B. WAMPLER.

Apollo, Pa.

Communion services will be held in the Brethren church at McVeytown, Pa., June 29. Come and help us. Elder W. L. Spanogle of Altoona will be with us.

E. H. SMITH.

The Warsaw congregation will hold a love feast Monday evening June 23. Neighboring brethren are cordially invited.

C. F. YODER.

The Bethesda church, Pioneer, Ohio, will hold communion service on Sunday evening, June 22.

HATTIE KANAUER.

The Brethren church at Brooklyn, Iowa, will hold communion service, June 28, 8 p. m. A very cordial invitation is extended.

CLARA FLORA.

Ministerial Association

The Indiana Ministerial Association meets at Roann, June 24—26. As pastor I hope to see a large attendance. We have arranged to hold our communion on Thursday evening, the 26. Let all arrange to stay over. The usual invitation is extended to those of like faith to be with us in our communion service.

WM. H. MILLER, Pastor.

Jones' Mills, Pa.

We again pen a few thoughts for the readers of the EVANGELIST. The Sunday-school is progressing nicely with brother N. J. Miller as superintendent. The Young People's meetings are interesting, but the attendance is not what we would like to see it. We use Brother Yoder's notes and appreciate them very much. Last Sunday we received two more into the church by baptism. May God's love continue to draw sinners from the paths of wickedness into paths of righteousness and holiness.

Our love feast has been postponed one week. Will be pleased to have all who can to be present.

T. D. GOOD.

Brooklyn, Iowa

One request followed by another, I have again taken charge of the Brooklyn church and reside in Des Moines. I give them one-half my time. Divine service every two weeks at the Brethren church in South Brooklyn.

Five years ago I said good-bye to this congregation after a very pleasant reign of four years. Ministers who followed in charge often referred the church to those four years of financial and spiritual success. We are again striving with the faithful who have always been at their post of duty to build up the congregation. First Sabbath morning we had a glorious handshaking; in the evening house crowded. Last Sabbath I was happily surprised to step into a clean church, new paper, new paint and new carpet, the marks and scratches all gone, rededicated to God, and we tried to rededicate our hearts to him also.

Brooklyn has been without a pastor part of the time. Same old story, no more revivals wanted until the board can send a pastor to follow the work. They have a good Sabbath school. Sisters'